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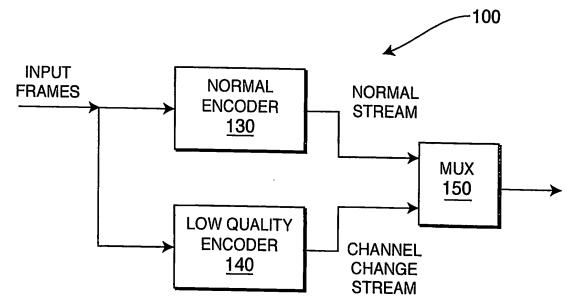
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ENCODING METHOD AND APPARATUS ENABLING FAST CHANNEL CHANGE OF COMPRESSED VIDEO



(57) Abstract: A video encoder (100, 300, 500) and corresponding method (800) are described for enabling fast channel change of compressed video, where a video encoder (100, 300, 500) for receiving input pictures and providing compressed stream data includes a normal encoding portion (130, 330, 530) for receiving input pictures and providing normal stream data, a lower-quality encoding portion (140, 340, 540) for receiving input pictures and providing channel change stream data, and a multiplexor (150, 350, 550) in signal communication with each of the normal and lower-quality portions for receiving and combining the normal and channel change data streams.

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